

Minutes  
Durham County Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
Monday, November 17, 2003

Present: Elsa Woods, Chair; Ann Craver, Vice Chair; Bessie Carrington, Rich DeGiacomo, Jon Miller, Bob Otterbourg, Lionell Parker, Lauren Singdahlsen, Wanda Wagstaff, Board Members; Philip Cherry, Director of the Durham County Library.

Absent: Joe Bowser, Board of County Commissioners liaison to the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2003

Bessie Carrington raised the question as to whether or not we need to amend the by-laws to reflect the decision made in October to return to a bi-monthly meeting schedule. Lauren Singdahlsen and Bob Otterbourg agreed to see to this at least two weeks prior to the next meeting in January. The minutes of October 20, 2003 were approved with two corrections.

Communications

- Philip Cherry reported that the North Carolina Humanities Council had awarded the Library a grant to develop a film series from the Carolina Video collection.
- Elsa Woods and several other Board members reported receiving a letter from a staff member regarding his displeasure with the dress code. She responded that the Board's purview does not extend to staff issues.
- Elsa Woods shared copies of a report presented By Sandy Sweitzer at staff day.

Finance Report

Philip Cherry reported that the Library's State Library grant amount was reduced because we received less money from the county, based on a benchmark from two years ago. Bessie Carrington made a motion to have Philip Cherry send copies of this information to the BOCC, along with a letter from Elsa Woods outlining how the Library's budget has been unduly affected. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports

- Committee assignments: Elsa Woods presented a list of committees and their members and Chairs for the remainder of the year. All chairs and members agreed to serve.
- Retreat Committee: Elsa Woods reported that the committee had met with Mulberry Tree Consultants and were planning a Board Retreat for January 28, 2004, location TBA. Lionell Parker suggested inviting the Friends and the Foundation to the retreat to unify and clarify our visions and roles. Members of the committee expressed concern that doing so would totally change the direction and scope of the retreat, and suggested that the Board Development Committee look into a second step involving other Library organizations. Philip Cherry agreed to prepare new board binders for board members.

Old Business

- Update on Plans for Stanford L. Warren: Although the original project on the 2001 bond was for renovation of the existing facility, the design team recommended a larger restructuring and expansion of the space. The Library foundation has agreed to provide \$100,000 towards the difference in cost for the construction project.
- Organizational Chart: Philip provided as requested a chart outlining the library's five divisions. Several Board members expressed a desire for a visual representation that reflects the interactions and directional flow within the library. Philip Cherry also reported that the PR position and the Parkwood position had been filled.

New Business

- Report on New Facilities: The 2003 portion of the Bond referendum passed with a greater number of votes than the other three items on the ballot. Philip Cherry shared a prototype blueprint for branch libraries. Philip Cherry reported that the Lowe's Grove issue had still not been resolved, and nor had the question of land for the East branch. Both he and Board members expressed concern that we are not being kept in the loop about the status of land purchasing deals.

External Reports

- Foundation: Bob Otterbourg reported that the foundation had lined up co-chairs for the capital campaign, names TBA.

-Friends: Elsa Woods reported that the Friends have decided to distribute \$39,000 in grants for various library programs.

Director's Report

Philip Cherry suggested a meeting between the Board of Trustees and the Boards of the Foundation and Friends to discuss future plans and bring each other up to date. No action was taken at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Singdahlsen